

Message Text

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NEA/RA:DTMORRISON

EB/OCA:SHARRIS

-----251929Z 040349 /65

R 251756Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS STATE 016332

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, XF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PENNSYLVANIA STATE IOGA, JUNE 1977

REF: 10 FAM 974

1. JIDDA PASS RIYADH.
2. TOM ROGERS, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INT'L. COMMERCE, PA.
STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DRAFTER OF FOLLOWING MESSAGE,
IS REQUESTING POSTS' COMMENTS RE VIABILITY PROPOSED MISSION
THEME.

3. MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

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--THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA WAS GRANTED IOGA STATUS FOR
TRADE MISSION TO SYRIA, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA IN JUNE.
BASED ON RECENT WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING THESE
COUNTRIES' INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT, WE
BELIEVE THAT MISSION CENTERED AROUND THE THEME OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST AT THIS TIME IN ALL
THREE COUNTRIES, DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENT STAGES OF DEVELOP-

MENT AND THEIR DIFFERING NEEDS.

--BOTH SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE NOW PLACING A HEAVY EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF LAND RECLAMATION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WITH SUCH A CONCENTRATED EXPANSION OF LAND

USAGE, THE NEED FOR HOUSING, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURAL SYSTEMS HAS BECOME ACUTE AS THE POPULATION EXPANDS INTO PREVIOUSLY UNSETTLED REGIONS.

--IN SAUDI ARABIA, RAPID POPULATION GROWTH HAS CAUSED INCREASING STRAIN ON EXISTING HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL FACILITIES, RESULTING IN A NEED FOR BOTH THE EXPANSION OF OLD FACILITIES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW POPULATION CENTERS.

--PENNSYLVANIA FIRMS ALREADY EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THE PROJECTED MISSION GENERALLY FALL INTO CATEGORIES COMPATIBLE WITH THIS THEME. FOREMOST IN THIS GROUPING WOULD BE THE PARTICIPATION OF SEVERAL COMMUNITY PLANNING/ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING FIRMS. THESE WOULD IDEALLY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN THE AREAS OF LAND RECLAMATION, RESOURCE UTILIZATION, TRANSPORTATION AND MUNICIPAL FACILITY ORGANIZATION.

--WITH SUCH A BASE, THE PACKAGE COULD BE COMPLETED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, BUILDING MATERIALS, PRE-FAB HOUSING, COMMUNITY FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND INFRASTRUCTURAL SYSTEMS SUCH AS WATER AND POWER NETWORKS.

--IN ADDITION TO COMPANY PARTICIPATION, WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY AS A POSSIBLE MISSION MEMBER. IN LIGHT OF THE EMPHASIS THAT ALL THREE

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COUNTRIES ARE PLACING ON TRAINING AT INCREASINGLY TECHNICAL LEVELS, ON RESEARCH AT HOME AND ABROAD IN AGRICULTURE, PETROLEUM AND OTHER FIELDS OF HIGH MIDDLE EASTERN INTEREST, FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS INSTITUTIONS, ETC. PENN STATE'S PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE HIGHLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO MISSION. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.
(END MESSAGE)

4. ROGERS WILL BE PROVIDING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR EARLY JUNE 1977 VISIT FOR POSTS' CONFIRMATION SOONEST.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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